

Program Site Profile

The Cancer Institute at St. Joseph Medical Center

(aka CHI-St. Joseph Medical Center)

7501 Osler Dr, Building A,
Towson, Maryland 21204

Web sites:

Hospital: www.sjmcmd.org

Cancer Center: www.sjmcmd.org/CancerInstitute.aspx

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CANCER CENTER SUMMARY

Location(s): The Cancer Institute's facility opened in 2007. The St. Joseph Cancer Institute offers patients comprehensive cancer screening, diagnosis, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, home care, and hospice. Before the Cancer Institute opened, St. Josephs treated 1,072 new cancer patients in 2005 and 1,005 in 2006.

Centers of Excellence:

The Cancer Center has ten unique centers and has been accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (COC). Only 25% of the Cancer Centers nationwide have this distinction.

Here are the centers with their individual links.

[The Breast Oncology Center](#)

[The Colorectal Oncology Center](#)

[The Gynecologic Oncology Center](#)

[Hodes Comprehensive Liver and Pancreas Center](#)

[The Medical Oncology Center](#)

[The Radiation Oncology Center](#)

[The Thoracic Oncology Center](#)

[The Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center](#)

[The Urological Oncology Center](#)

The Serpick Infusion Center

Service Location:

The Cancer Institute at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, MD provides a multidisciplinary approach to research, diagnosis and treatment, and is the only community hospital in the state of Maryland to be selected as a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated community cancer center. At St. Joseph, our cancer program allows patients to receive the highest level of cancer

care without having to leave their communities, and offers patients the latest advances in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment at a convenient suburban location.

Centralized or Decentralized:

The Medical Oncology Center at St. Joseph Medical Center provides a seamless continuum of patient-centered medical care under the personal supervision of medical oncologists, who work closely with surgeons, radiation oncologists and specialized infusion nurses.

Our medical oncologists treat the entire spectrum of cancers, including breast, lung, colorectal, liver and prostate. They consult with patients and their families, and work with our nurse navigators and clinical coordinator to create a treatment plan tailored individually for each patient's unique needs. They become a central part of the patients' lives.

Infusion Therapy

The Serpick Infusion Center of The Cancer Institute is located within a beautiful, two-story glass atrium that looks onto a peaceful garden and features custom infusion chairs designed by St. Joseph staff with patient comfort in mind. The center is staffed by compassionate, highly-trained infusion nurses who guide patients through therapy.

A Chemotherapy Teaching Class is offered three times a week for patients to attend to prepare them for this treatment phase. They receive educational packets and learn valuable information about managing side effects. They also learn that the nurses and physicians are just a phone call away when the need arises.

Pain management is expertly handled through oral medication, and when needed, patients are referred to pain specialists. Although patients usually come to The Medical Oncology Center with a diagnosis, medical oncologists carefully supervise exact staging of the cancer before designing a treatment plan.

Both inpatient and outpatient consultative services are available. The medical oncologists stay involved with patients and remain available throughout the cancer journey. They treat the patient, not just the diagnosis, helping provide psycho-social care as needed. They work with the patient's Cancer Navigator, coordinating such support services as nutrition counseling, genetics counseling and ostomy/wound care, when needed.

When patients no longer respond to curative treatment, medical oncologists help patients and their families decide on and choose hospice care or palliative care for symptom management and bring in spiritual resources so that each patient is as comfortable as possible

Cancer Coordinator:

Provided as a free service of the St. Joseph Cancer Institute, the cancer coordinator program is designed to assist patients and their families to obtain the information, knowledge, support, and guidance they need to successfully manage cancer care.

The cancer coordinator meets newly diagnosed cancer patients and provides educational materials, individualized patient education, patient and family support, and referrals to appropriate community services. Working closely with the medical staff, the cancer coordinator

is the key to the coordination of care and navigation through the health care system for the individual patient. Patients diagnosed with cancer are educated, supported, and navigated through the continuum of care. The coordinator also coordinates all cancer support groups and activities. Designated as the institute's single point of contact for patients and caregivers, the focus of the coordinator's role is to make it easy for patients and their families to access services and information.

St. Joseph Medical Center recognizes that treating and living with cancer requires a team effort. Diagnostic services, surgery, medical oncology, pain management, home health, rehabilitation services, and a variety of their areas may be involved in a patient's treatment. The cancer coordinator helps serve as a liaison between the patient and the St. Joseph care teams.

One Team. One Plan. One Place.

Designed around the patient's comfort, convenience and peace of mind, the Institute brings all specialists together in one location, allowing patients to see everyone involved during a single visit—radically altering the usual patient experience of multiple appointments over many anxious weeks. Everyone, from medical oncologists and surgeons, to radiologists, educators and medical technicians, wants what's best for the patient and works to get that done as quickly as possible.

At St. Joseph's Cancer Institute, patients have access to expert specialists in medical, radiation and surgical oncology as well as pulmonologists, gastroenterologists, social workers, geneticists and other cancer professionals. The services are rounded out with a boutique, where patients may pick up supplies, and a library for patients' and families' research. This centralized facility eliminates the usual barriers with scheduling and access, allowing patients to focus their energy on getting well and surviving their cancer.

World-Class Treatment, Community Hospital Setting:

Patients with cancer now have access to National Cancer Institute phase II clinical trials, along with numerous other advanced trials at St. Joseph's Cancer Institute, which was selected as the only Maryland hospital to be part of a groundbreaking pilot program called the National Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP). The program includes only 16 community hospitals nationwide.

The Cancer Institute is also accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (COC). Only 25 percent of cancer facilities in the United States hold this prestigious accreditation. Hospitals and treatment centers are approved according to standards set by the Committee on Approvals of the COC to ensure that the program provides all patients with a full range of diagnostic, treatment and supportive services. Approved cancer programs must meet strict standards in multidisciplinary care and maintain a high quality cancer registry program, provide comprehensive outpatient and community education and screening programs, promote certification in oncology nursing, and participate in clinical research trials. Other required components include cancer prevention, early diagnosis, rehabilitation, psychosocial support and end-of-life care.

HOSPITAL SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

About CHI - St. Joseph Medical Center

- Acute care, regional medical center with 345 licensed beds
- Founded in 1864 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, moved to current location in Towson, Maryland in 1965
- Member of Catholic Health Initiatives, a national holding company of 72 Catholic hospitals and more than 42 long term-care facilities

Today, St. Joseph Medical Center...

- Offers 24-hour physician coverage in critical care and general medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics and surgery
- Has more than 1,100 physicians on its medical staff representing more than 50 medical specialties
- Employs more than 2,500 nurses, allied healthcare professionals and others
- Has a 2008 Annual Net Patient Services Budget of \$378.7 million
- Embraces a mission of loving service and compassionate care for all regardless of ability to pay
- Makes a promise to patients to be “always expert, always personal, always faith filled.”

Background

St. Joseph Medical Center is a 363-bed healthcare facility serving the city and 5-county area of Baltimore, including the region surrounding the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. It is located in a suburban community of Towson, Md., within Baltimore County.

Patient Service Area

More than half of the medical center's patients come from outside the primary service area, defined as a 12-mile radius of the hospital. Nearly 25 percent of the service area is African American, and there are higher concentrations of adults over 55 in the area than the national average. The overall cancer incidence rate is significantly higher than the national average, especially for lung and esophageal cancer.

Access and Outreach Initiatives

St. Joseph operates a 38-foot clinic on wheels, equipped with two exam rooms, to reach neighborhoods in Baltimore City that would otherwise lack direct access to healthcare. In 2006, more than 40 St. Joseph physicians performed pro bono care to more than 2,500 primarily Hispanic residents through the mobile St. Clare Medical Outreach Coach

NOTE: Data was obtained for this profile from the CHI – St. Joseph Medical Center and the Cancer Institute St. Joseph Medical Center websites.